# Scenes and Figures In The News

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ELLIOTT NORTHCOTE.

THE revolution in the republic of Colombia puts the minister from the United States, Elliott Northcote, in a situation of some difficulty. The coming Colombian congress is expected to ratify the tripartite treaty between Panama, Colombia and the United States. Should the present revolution prove serious enough to endanger the success of this treaty the fact would be embarrassing to the interests of the United States. General Rafael Reyes, president of Colombia, is now in Europe, where he went to obtain relaxation from the strain of his official duties. He stopped in New York on his way thither. He expects to return to Colombia in about three months, and meantime the presidency is intrusted to General Holguin, who is considered an able statesman. General Reyes says he does not believe the trouble in Colombia is in any way due to dissatisfaction over the tripartite treaty between Colombia, Panama and the United States now before the Colombian congress. He thinks the movement is simply the smoldering remains of the revolution that he quenched on assuming power, that the government is able to control all the troops and cope with the situation. General Reyes says he does not consider the news from Colombia serious enough to alter his plans for a sojourn in Europe before his return to the Colombian capital.

Minister Northcote is a resident of Huntington, W. Va., and was appointed to his present post about two months ago. He recently cabled the state department that Americans in Colombia were in no danger because of the revolution there.

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The recent launching of the replica of the Clermont at a shipyard at Staten Island, New York, was one of the first ceremonies connected with the great Hudson-Fulton celebration of this year. The original Clermont started from New York on her memorable trip to Albany on Aug 17, 1807.

LAUNCHING OF THE NEW CLERMONT.

But it was about two years later before navigation of the Hudson by steam was regularly established, so the celebration this year commemorates both the tercentenary of the discovery of the Hudson by the English navigator who gave his name to the river and the inauguration of steamboat travel on the stream through Fulton's inventions. The reproduction of the Clermont will go up the Hudson to Albany under her own steam on the day of the big marine parade, Oct. 1. At the launching a vase containing water from the well on the old Livingston estate on the Hudson was broken over her bows by Mrs. Alice Crary Sutcliffe, great-granddaughter of Robert Fulton.

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In her farewell address as dean of Radcliffe college, Harvard, Miss Agnes Irwin said: "What have the women's colleges given to the country in return for the time and strength spent by them during the past twenty-five years? What had the country a right to expect? Certainly not women of genius. The universities have never made geniuses. They have reckoned them among their glories, and they have sometimes expelled one, but they have never made one, and I doubt if they have ever crushed one. It is not easy to know a genius at first sight. If there is one in the gown of any girl graduate of this year, bid her come forth, suffer herself to be admired and let her make sure of a hearty welcome from the world at large."

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**Head of the Family—at Times.**

Bilkins—I called at your house to see you today, and I noticed that your wife referred to you as the head of the family.

Wilkins—Huh! Out collecting bills, weren't you?—New York Weekly.

# The Hot Spell In Gotham.

**The Desire to Get Away From Town Is the Moving Passion in Summer — Mrs. John Jacob Astor's Princely Admirer—Mene, the Eskimo.**

By JAMES A. EDGERTON.
[Our New York Correspondent.]

NEW YORK in midsummer is afflicted with but one overwhelming desire, and that is to go somewhere else. Everybody who can escape all summer does that, and those who can break away only at week ends do that, and those who cannot go at all think about it and wish they could. Even the east side small boys are herded off to the

MRS. JOHN JACOB ASTOR.

fresh air camps—that is, some of them are, the rest swarming over parks, jamming the streets and alleys and tumbling about the wharfs. Gotham is decidedly not a summer town. During the heated spell it is scattered all over the earth—in Europe, along the seashore, up the Hudson, in the Adirondacks, or anywhere so long as it is away.

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There is some reason for this desire to flee as a bird to the mountains, or to the beach, or to any old place. One week recently thirty-two persons died of sunstroke in the city. Almost all of them were of the so called lower or laboring classes, whose occupations render them unable to leave the city for breathing spells of any appreciable periods and whose necessary mode of living is unhealthy, particularly in the hot months. The unhealthiness of crowded tenements in summer lowers the physical qualities of their inhabitants to a degree that in this enlightened age is not only deplorable, but in a sense criminal. The notorious heedlessness of metropolitan landlords as a class (though some exceptions exist, of course) has had a most important effect on the number of deaths from heat. Even the strictest tenement house laws fail in many cases to make the landlords observe the dictates of ordinary decency, for as long as laws are made and exist the administration of those laws will be in the hands of men, and when the human agency interposes it is invariably found that bribery can be successfully resorted to in many instances. Thus when the landlords of the tumble down, infested tenements fail to succeed in passing "joker" bills at the state capital at Albany, to emasculate the tenement house acts, they can fall back on the bribe taking tenement house inspectors, who, though they are gradually being rooted out, are still known to exist.

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But probably the greatest cause of deaths from sunstroke is intemperance during the hot weather. Ale and beer, except in excessive quantities, do not cause many prostrations. The "ball," however, has a decidedly pernicious influence. The ball is the term applied in Gotham to drinks containing whisky or something stronger. The "highball"—whisky with ice and a large quantity of water—is as menacing as anything. Whisky and the other drinks containing a large quantity of alcohol increase the temperature of the body to away above normal, and it is a well known fact that whisky and brandy are especially dangerous in hot climates. When the British army officers went to South Africa to fight against the Boers they found that they could not take comfortably and safely more than one-third of the amount of strong spirits that they had been accustomed to taking in their native land.

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Physicians declare that one of the chief reasons for so many deaths is that apparently no effort is made to select suitable clothing for summer, either in respect to color or material. This is particularly true in the cases of the city's guardians, the policemen and firemen, who from the very nature of their occupations are exposed to extreme heat, either directly from the sun or of artificial origin. And yet these men are obliged by the city government to wear heavy uniforms of dark color, which more readily absorb the sun's rays than anything else, and in the cases of the policemen at least are obliged to wear them tightly buttoned. Many policemen have complained of this handicap this summer.

In this connection it may be noted that the department of commerce and labor has just issued a bulletin concerning a cloth specially made for those exposed to the sun. Consul General William H. Michael of Calcutta has sent samples of the cloth, which is manufactured in India for the use of farmers and others, and writes concerning it. The cloth is called thatcho and shikari. It is made on scientific principles to conform to nature's plan of warding off the sun's rays, as exemplified in the color of the skin and the pigments under the skin. The retail price of woolen thatcho in Calcutta is $2 per yard, double width, and of cotton thatcho 66 cents per yard, single width. The retail price of green shikari is 33 cents per yard, single width.

Samples of the cloth will be loaned by the bureau of manufactures to American textile interests.

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The cause of the suffragettes on this side of the Atlantic has undergone many vicissitudes. The battle for "votes for women" has been as varied as it has been earnest. Another blow was struck at the cause of these modern skirted revolutionists when at the Marble arch, in the upper part of this city, a few days ago a fifteen-year-old lad was given the platform to speak on the subject of the suffrage. His name was Wesley Smith, and Wesley was not at all bashful. He started right off with the declaration that women were too inconsistent to have the right to vote and cited certain occurrences in his own home to show that he had not given his mother the right kind of bringing up. Perhaps Wesley had been spanked with the family shingle the day before by mamma and was still reminiscent of the sting.

After all, may not the stand of the boy be considered as an indication that, after the women get the right to vote, the young folks of the land will arise and assert what they claim to be their right to vote? While the writer is looking into the future with what are probably very dim glasses, yet who shall deny that the twelve and fourteen year old victims of the candy, the pinwheel, firecracker and ginger pop trusts will not rise and demand that they shall not be taxed without the right, to pass upon the question at the ballot box?

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The American and European marriage laws and customs do not meet with the approval or the solemn recognition of the aristocracy of India, and several entertaining international comedies have resulted therefrom. The latest victim is no less a personage than Mrs. John Jacob Astor of New York, who has spent considerable time in London of late dodging the attentions of a certain Indian prince who wants to present her with anything from a troupe of elephants to a string of pearls.

Haunting the fashionable Ritz hotel, where Mrs. Astor is stopping, the disconsolate prince is told time after time that the American woman of millions is "not at home."

"Why should she avoid me?" queries the prince. "Why will she not accept my presents? I cannot understand it. She should feel highly honored."

Mrs. Astor and her English friends are greatly amused at the adoration of the prince, and they have recalled an incident of a year ago when the same prince was warned to leave England by the husband of a celebrated English beauty because the prince insisted on sending her presents. The prince, who is one of the most lavish entertainers on the continent and for that reason is received in favor almost everywhere, says that he intends to visit New York next winter to show the Gothamites how to entertain in really extravagant fashion. He will have a difficult task before him, for if he would outstrip all previous records for costly dinners he will have to spend about $500 a plate. Dinners have been given in the metropolis of recent years where the souvenirs given to each guest have cost over $100 apiece. Over $20,000 has been known to have been spent for flowers alone at a single dinner, with the cigars costing $5 apiece.

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A well known cigar dealer on Broadway, in the hotel and theater district, has continually in his showcases a display of cigars ranging upward in price to four and five dollars apiece. The proprietor says that he rarely ever sells the five dollar brands except in quantities for elaborate banquets.

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Mene, the Eskimo who as a boy was brought to New York from the ice floes of the north by Peary, has gone back to his native wilds forever. He says he doesn't like us because we are too cold. He opines that metropolitans are colder mentally and temperamentally than Greenland is geologically and geographically. Mene's indictment will probably stunt the growth of the city and cause it to be ashamed in ages yet unborn. Historians will write volumes of lies about the episode, and novelists will describe it in words of pristine truth.

Mene forgets about the education and the fat living he had while among us, without money and without price. He forgets everything but the fact that somebody or other wouldn't do something or other that he wanted done. Therefore we have inherited the frigidity of the glacial age. Godspeed to Mene as he treks northward to the tropical isles of the Arctic stream.

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There is no question of the signs of a business revival. I am not a prosperity shouter, but am perfectly sincere in saying that in almost every line there is assurance of improving markets and easier money. And yet—and yet—the workmen and small business men are still under the shadow. Until these are prosperous there is no true prosperity.

## CHARLES DARWIN'S SONS.

**Three Who Have Won Success In Fields of Their Own Choosing.**

The Darwin centenary observances in different parts of the world this year call attention to the fact that there are three sons of the great evolutionist alive and active in their respective fields at the present day. These sons, George, Francis and Horace, were all honored in appropriate ways at the recent Darwin centenary celebration at Cambridge university, England. Sir George Darwin, who paid a visit to this country not long ago, is Plumian professor of astronomy and experimental philosophy at Cambridge. He is the eldest son and is perhaps the best known of the trio. He was born at Down, Kent, in 1845 and has been in his present post as a professor at Cambridge since 1883. He has a string of titles and honors following his

SIR GEORGE DARWIN AND HIS BROTHERS, HORACE AND FRANCIS.

name too long for duplication in a short article. His marriage to an American woman, Maud du Puy, daughter of Charles du Puy of Philadelphia, in 1884, increases the interest taken in him in America. He was educated at Cambridge, where he won many honors as a student. He practiced for a time as a barrister, but in 1874 returned to Cambridge to devote himself to scientific pursuits. He has a long list of publications on scientific subjects, chiefly mathematical, astronomical or pertaining to meteorology, to his credit.

Francis Darwin, who was born in 1848 and who was also educated at Cambridge, has followed more nearly in his father's path in his scientific work and is known for his publications entitled "Life and Letters of Charles Darwin," "Elements of Botany" and "Practical Physiology of Plants."

Horace Darwin was born in 1851. He has been mayor of Cambridge and is a civil engineer. He married the Hon. Emma Cecilia Farrer, daughter of the first Lord Farrer, and is chairman of the Cambridge Scientific Instrument company, limited.

## SENATOR BROWN'S WIT.

**An Incident of the Income Tax Debate in Congress.**

One of the incidents in connection with the passage of the income tax amendment in the senate was a passage between Senator Brown of Nebraska, one of the Republican "progressives," and Senator Stone of Missouri, Democrat.

Senator Stone pulled out a little red book and read the Democratic platform on income taxation.

"I know," he said, "that the senator from Nebraska has been given the distinction of authorship of this resolution, but I merely wish to express the hope that he will not neglect to inform the people of the country that he appropriated this idea from a Democrat and a distinguished citizen of his state."

NORRIS BROWN.

This plain reference to Mr. Bryan caused Mr. Brown to prick up his ears. Rising, without the suspicion of a smile on his face he asked, "Does the senator from Missouri complain of the source of the idea?"

"Oh, no," replied Mr. Stone; "I am not complaining. I am congratulating the senator on having gone to that source."

"Well, does the senator from Missouri complain because the idea has been appropriated?" asked Mr. Brown, still without cracking a smile.

"Not at all," responded Mr. Stone. "I am glad that the Republican party has gone to the Democratic platform for its ideas. I repeat that I am congratulating the senator."

"Well," said Mr. Brown, "does not the senator from Missouri know that if anything good in any Democratic platform is ever to benefit the people of the United States it must be appropriated by somebody?"

And Mr. Brown as solemnly sat down again.

Mr. Stone's eyes lost their merry expression. "As I was saying, Mr. President," he began, and then went on with his address in favor of the popular election of senators and the income tax.

## JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, JR.

**His Succession to the Vice Presidency of Standard Oil Company.**

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., son of the founder of the Standard Oil trust, now has official high standing in that organization, having been chosen to the place occupied by the late H. H. Rogers. The meeting of directors at which his election took place was attended by the elder Rockefeller, who still keeps his place as head of the holding company, the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, although seldom going to the offices of the corporation at 26 Broadway, New York. Mr. Rogers was vice president of this

holding corporation, and young Mr. Rockefeller has been in training for some years for the position.

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., was born in New York in 1877 and was graduated from Brown university. He married in 1901 a daughter of Senator Aldrich.